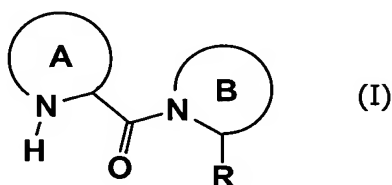


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A compound represented by formula (I):

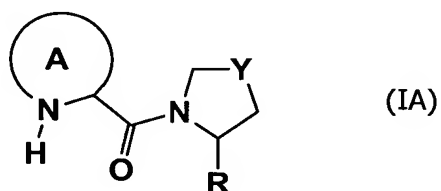


wherein ring A represents a nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s);

ring B represents 5-membered heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s)
and

R represents a hydrogen atom or cyano, or a salt thereof.

2. (original): The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (IA):

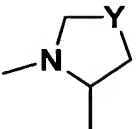


wherein Y represents -CH₂-, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom, or a sulfur atom which may be oxidized;

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

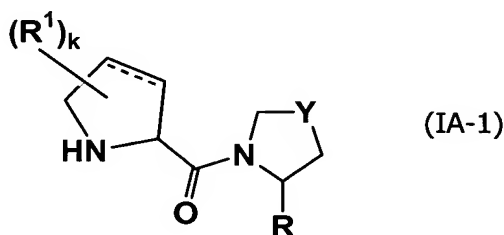
National Stage Entry of PCT/JP03/10401

Attorney Docket No.: Q86405

the ring represented by  may be substituted and the other symbols have

the same meanings as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof.

3. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (IA-1):



wherein k's of R^1 each independently, represents:

- (1) a C1-8 carbon chain which may be substituted by 1-5 of R^2 ,
- (2) a carbocyclic ring which may be substituted by 1-5 of R^3 ,
- (3) a heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by 1-5 of R^3 , wherein a carbon atom of the heterocyclic ring binds to ring A, or
- (4) two R^1 's, taken together with abutting carbon atoms or the same carbon atom of ring A, form a carbocyclic ring or a heterocyclic ring, wherein the ring may be substituted by 1-5 of R^3 ;

R^2 represents halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo, OR^{10} , $NR^{11}R^{12}$, SR^{10} , SO_2R^{13} , $COOR^{10}$, $CONR^{11}R^{12}$, COR^{13} , $=N-OR^{10}$, $SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$, $OCOR^{13}$, OSO_2R^{13} , $NR^{14}CONR^{11}R^{12}$, $NR^{14}COOR^{10}$, $OCOOR^{10}$, $OCONR^{11}R^{12}$, SO_2OR^{10} , OSO_2OR^{10} , SOR^{13} , a carbocyclic ring which may be substituted by 1-5 of R^3 , or a heterocyclic ring which may be substituted by 1-5 of R^3 ;

R^3 represents a C1-8 carbon chain which may be substituted with 1 to 5 groups selected from halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo, OR^{10} , $NR^{11}R^{12}$, SR^{10} , SO_2R^{13} , $COOR^{10}$, $CONR^{11}R^{12}$, COR^{13} , $=N-OR^{10}$, $SO_2NR^{11}R^{12}$, $OCOR^{13}$, OSO_2R^{13} , $NR^{14}CONR^{11}R^{12}$, $NR^{14}COOR^{10}$, $OCOOR^{10}$,

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

National Stage Entry of PCT/JP03/10401

Attorney Docket No.: Q86405

$\text{OCONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, $\text{SO}_2\text{OR}^{10}$, $\text{OSO}_2\text{OR}^{10}$, SOR^{13} , a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s) or a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s); or halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo, OR^{10} , $\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, SR^{10} , SO_2R^{13} , COOR^{10} , $\text{CONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, COR^{13} , $=\text{N}-\text{OR}^{10}$, $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, OCOR^{13} , $\text{OSO}_2\text{R}^{13}$, $\text{CONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, $\text{CONR}^{11}\text{COR}^{13}$, $\text{CONR}^{11}\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{13}$, $\text{NR}^{14}\text{CONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, $\text{NR}^{14}\text{COOR}^{10}$, OCOOR^{10} , $\text{OCONR}^{11}\text{R}^{12}$, $\text{SO}_2\text{OR}^{10}$, $\text{OSO}_2\text{OR}^{10}$, SOR^{13} , a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s) or a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s);

R^{10} represents:

- (1) a hydrogen atom,
- (2) a C1-8 carbon chain which may have a substituent(s),
- (3) a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s), or
- (4) a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s);



R^{11} , R^{12} , and R^{14} each independently represents:

- (1) a hydrogen atom,
- (2) a C1-8 carbon chain which may have a substituent(s),
- (3) a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s),
- (4) a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s),
- (5) COR^{13} , or
- (6) SO_2R^{13} ;

R^{13} represents:

- (1) a C1-8 carbon chain which may have a substituent(s),
- (2) a carbocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s), or
- (3) a heterocyclic ring which may have a substituent(s);

k represents 0 or an integer of 1 to 5;

 represents a single or double bond; wherein when  is a single bond, k represents an integer of 1 to 5;

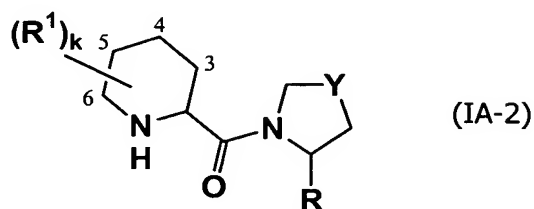
the other symbols have the same meanings as defined in ~~claims 1 and 2~~ claim 2, or a salt thereof.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

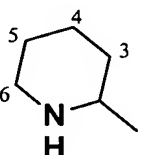
National Stage Entry of PCT/JP03/10401

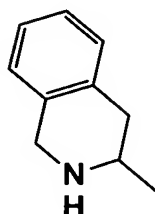
Attorney Docket No.: Q86405

4. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (IA-2):



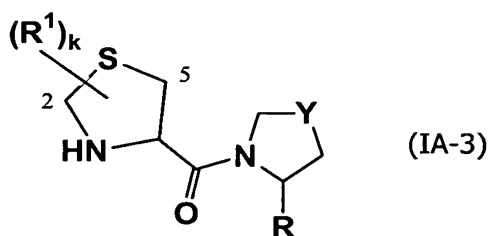
wherein all symbols have same meanings as defined in ~~claims 1 and 2~~ claim 2,

wherein a ring represented by , taken together with two R¹'s, does not form



, or a salt thereof.

5. (currently amended): The compound according to claim 1, which is represented by formula (IA-3):



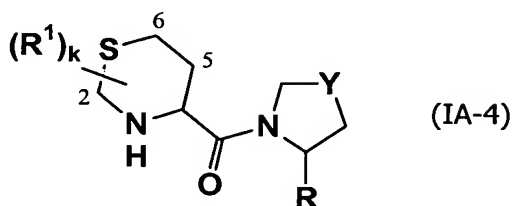
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

National Stage Entry of PCT/JP03/10401

Attorney Docket No.: Q86405

wherein all symbols have the same meanings as defined in ~~claims 1 and~~ claim 2, or a salt thereof.

6. (currently amended): The compound according to claim ~~1~~ 2, which is represented by formula (IA-4):



wherein all symbols have the same meanings as defined in claim 2; or a salt thereof.

7. (currently amended): A dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor which comprises the compound represented by formula (I) described in ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 or a salt thereof as an active ingredient.

8. (original): The inhibitor according to claim 7, which is an agent for prevention and/or treatment of dipeptidyl peptidase IV mediated diseases.

9. (original): The inhibitor according to claim 8, wherein the dipeptidyl peptidase IV mediated disease is diabetes mellitus, obesity, autoimmune disease, cancer metastasis, HIV infection, dermatosis or prostatic hypertrophy.

10. (currently amended): A dipeptidyl peptidase IV inhibitor which comprises the compound represented by formula (I) described in claim 1, or a salt thereof, and one or at least two agents selected from a PPAR agonist, a sulfonyl urea system hypoglycaemic agent, an insulin sensitizer, an α -glucosidase inhibitor and an acute effect type insulin secretant.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

National Stage Entry of PCT/JP03/10401

Attorney Docket No.: Q86405

11. (currently amended): A method of inhibiting a dipeptidyl peptidase IV which comprises administering to a mammal an effective amount of the compound represented by formula (I) described in claim 1 or a salt thereof.

12. (cancelled)

13. (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound described in claim 1 or a salt thereof, and a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier.

14. (original): A prodrug of the compound according to claim 1.